SENATE TAXATION
EXHIBIT NO. 7
DATE 2.4.09
BILL NO. SB129

I have submitted a power point photo presentation that I hope would help you to visually realize the benefits of large land mechanical fuel reduction. This project is being completed by my company to reduce heavy fuel loading on a Montana ranch. This prescription was designed to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildland fire on the ranch and also to promote both wildlife and domestic livestock forage. This fuel reduction fire mitigation prescription was designed and managed for the ranch by one of many qualified Montana forester who is retired from the US Forest Service with 30 plus years of fire and fuel experience.

With that said, I would now like to address the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's (DNRC) roll and involvement of this bill. I do not feel Montana tax payers should be burden with the cost when the lands owners should obtaining a qualified private forester (of who may need to be register with the DNRC to perform fire mitigation/ fuel reduction prescriptions). Throughout Montana are numerous retired Forest Service foresters and now foresters that have been lay off with the down turn in the suffering logging industry that are fully qualified to design wildfire mitigation prescriptions.

In closing, I would ask this committee to consider striking the conservation easement requirement from this bill for land owners to obtain tax credit to perform wildfire mitigation on their properties. In conjunction, I would also ask that DNRC's involvement be limited to the verification of the acres and dollars spent on private land that has completed wildfire mitigation. This bill could be a large contribution to helping stimulating the state's economy by putting unemployed loggers, Resource Management companies and foresters back to work in Montana.

Thank you;

David Russell

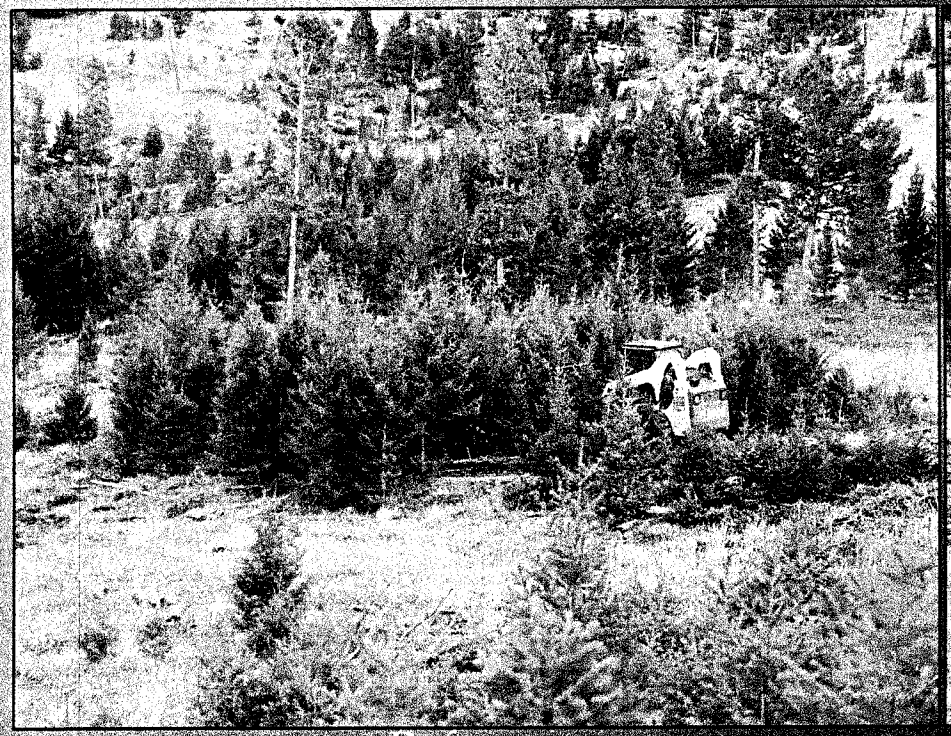
TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Fuel Reduction: To reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and the continued rising cost of wildfire suppression .

- Reduction of Conifer encroachment for better wildlife and domestic forage.

Skid Steer with Masticating Head

Fall of 2007

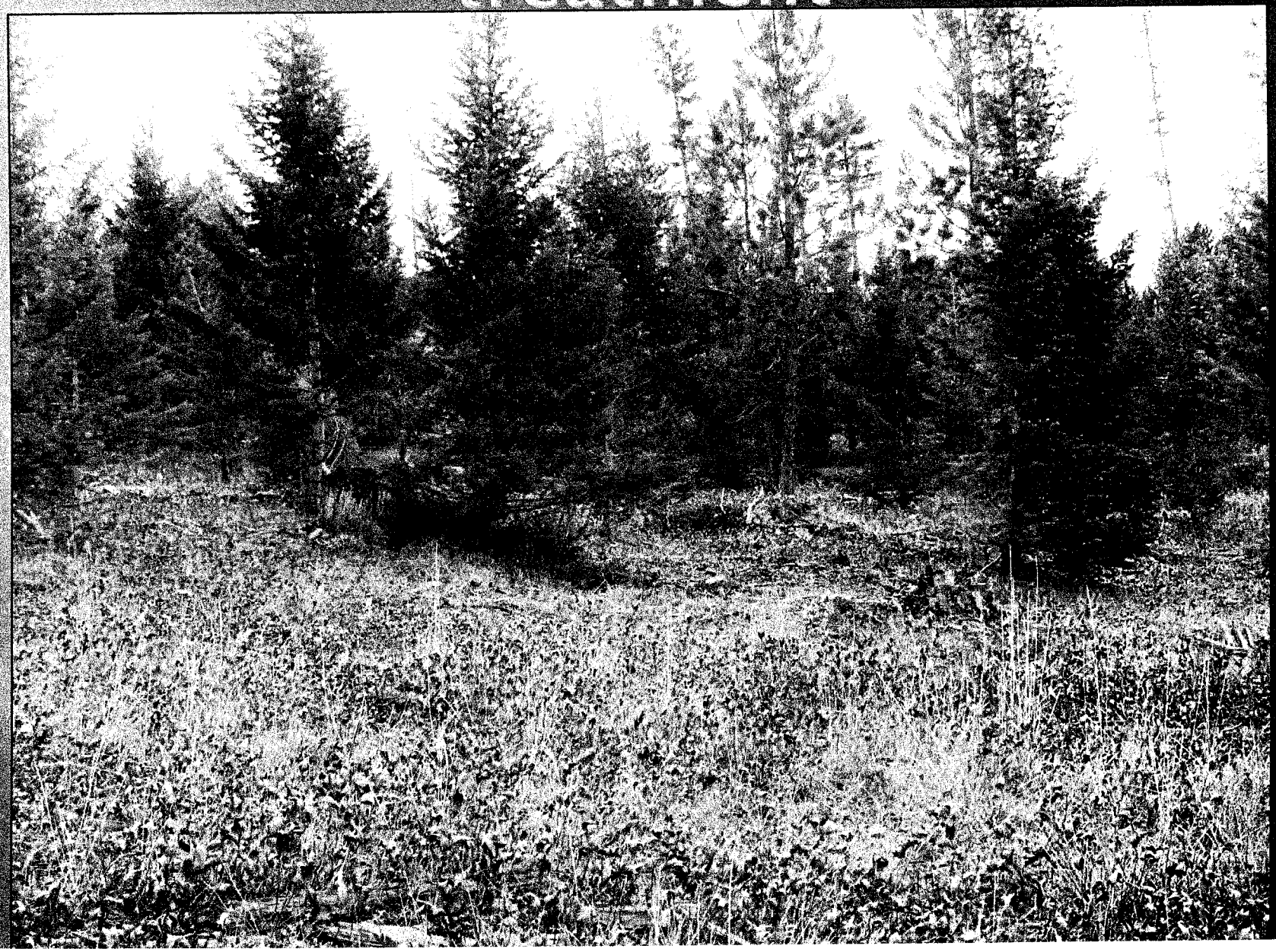


Before

After

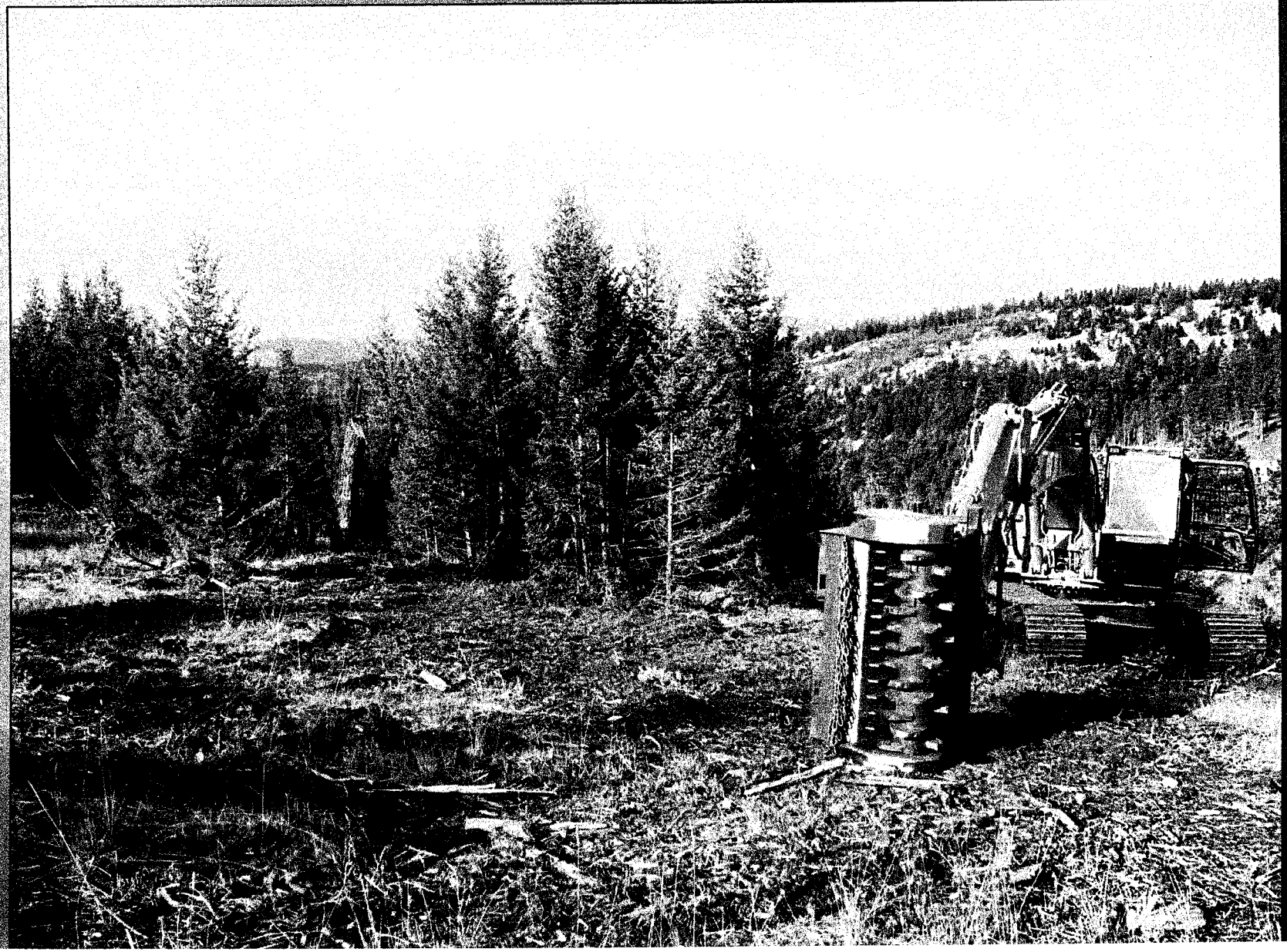
Unit Treated Fall 2008
Note the increased grass forage

Mix conifer stand one year after treatment



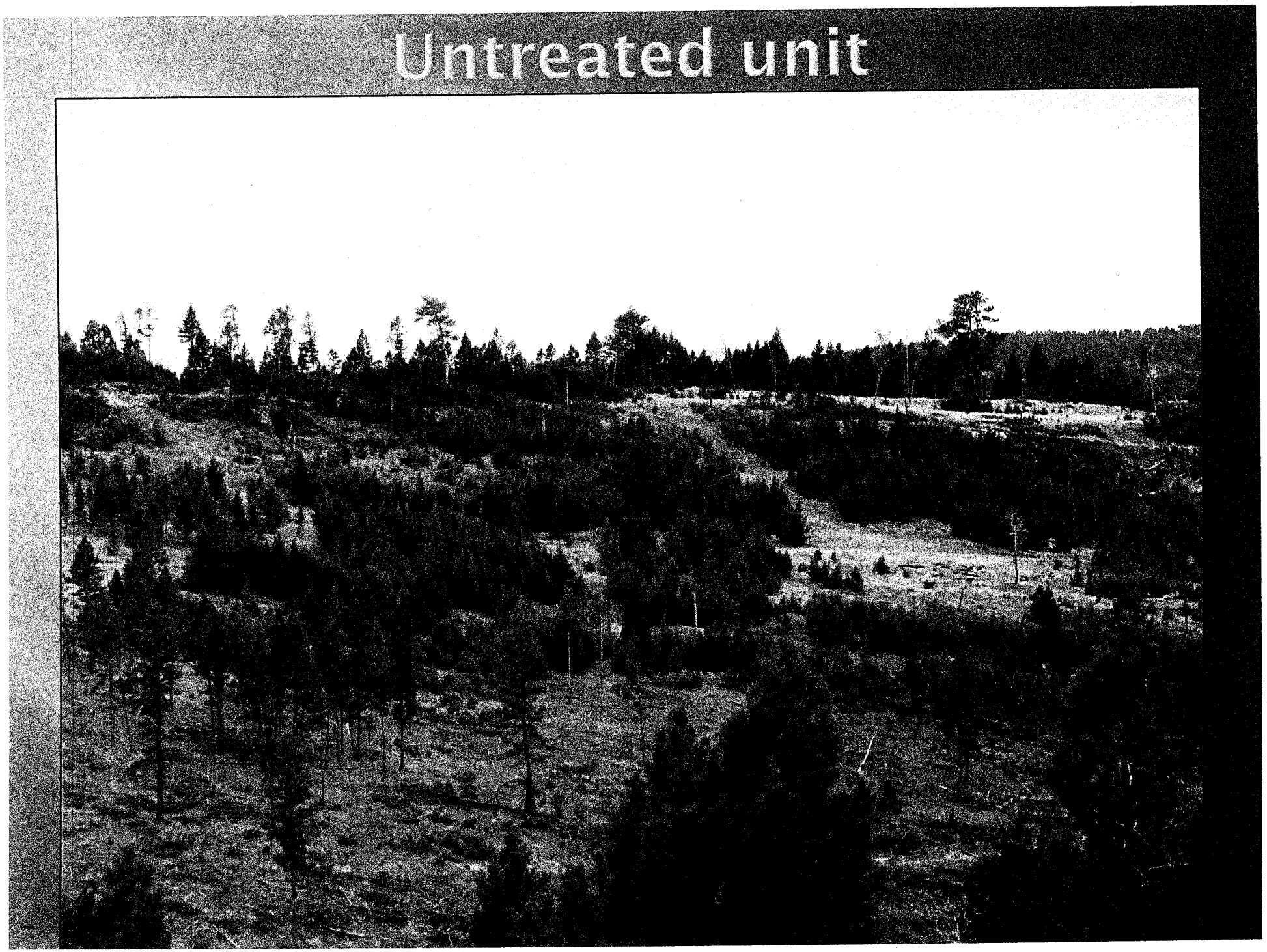
Typical conifer encroachment

Bull Hog forester head on Excavator
Note how the tree char is blended into the soil

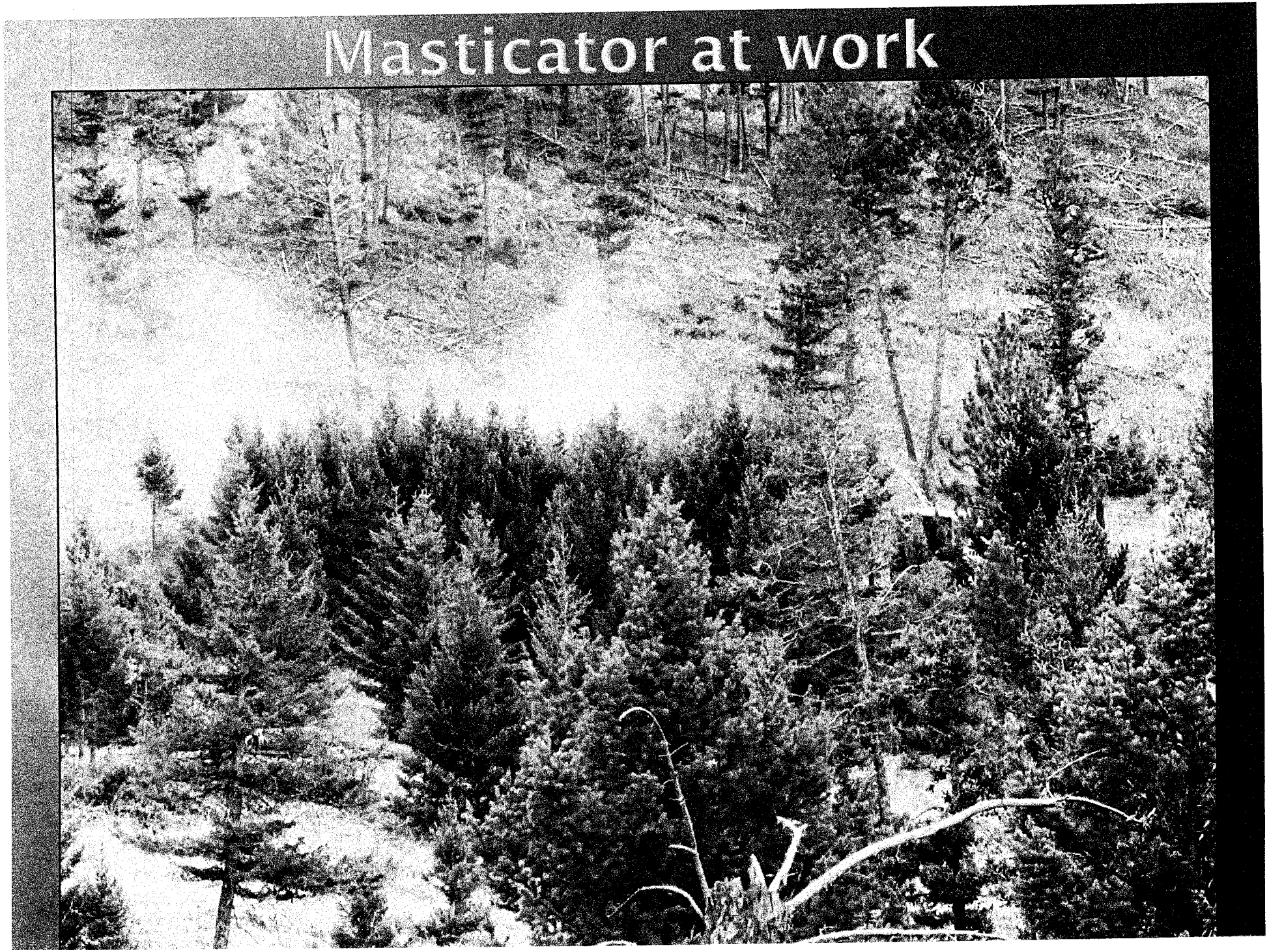


Untreated unit

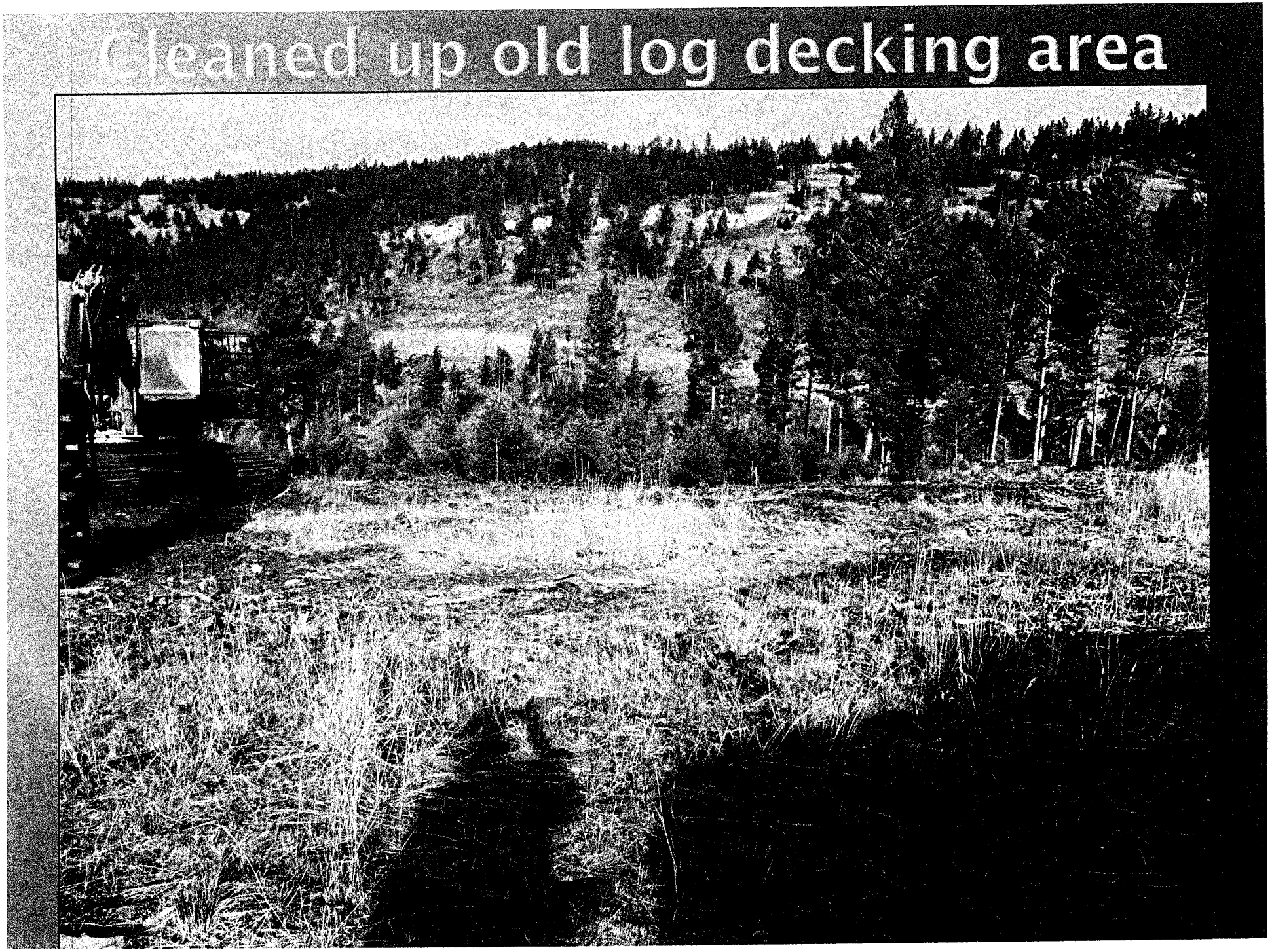
Untreated unit



Masticator at work

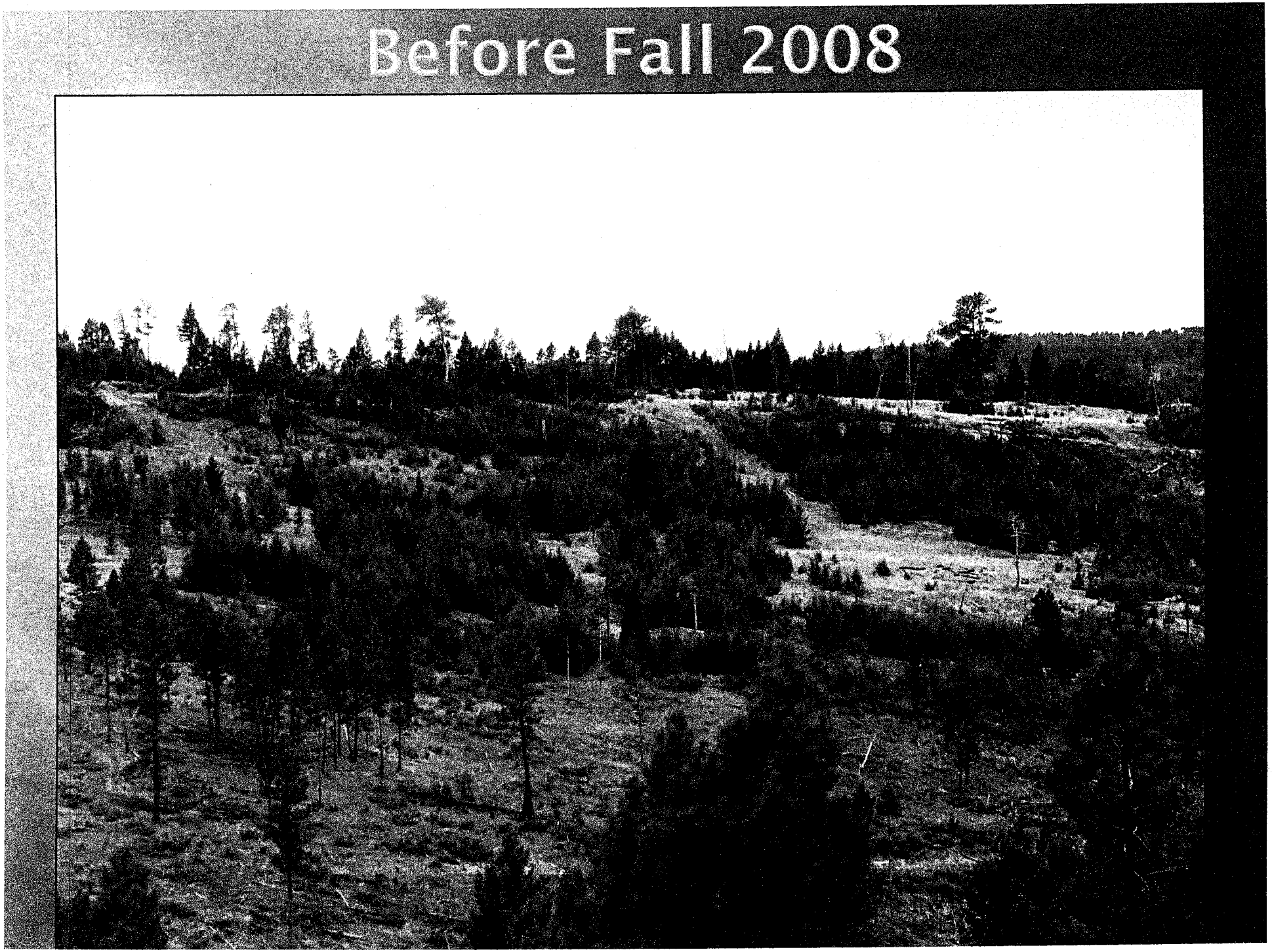


Cleaned up old log decking area



This log deck had been burned leaving unburned logs

Before Fall 2008

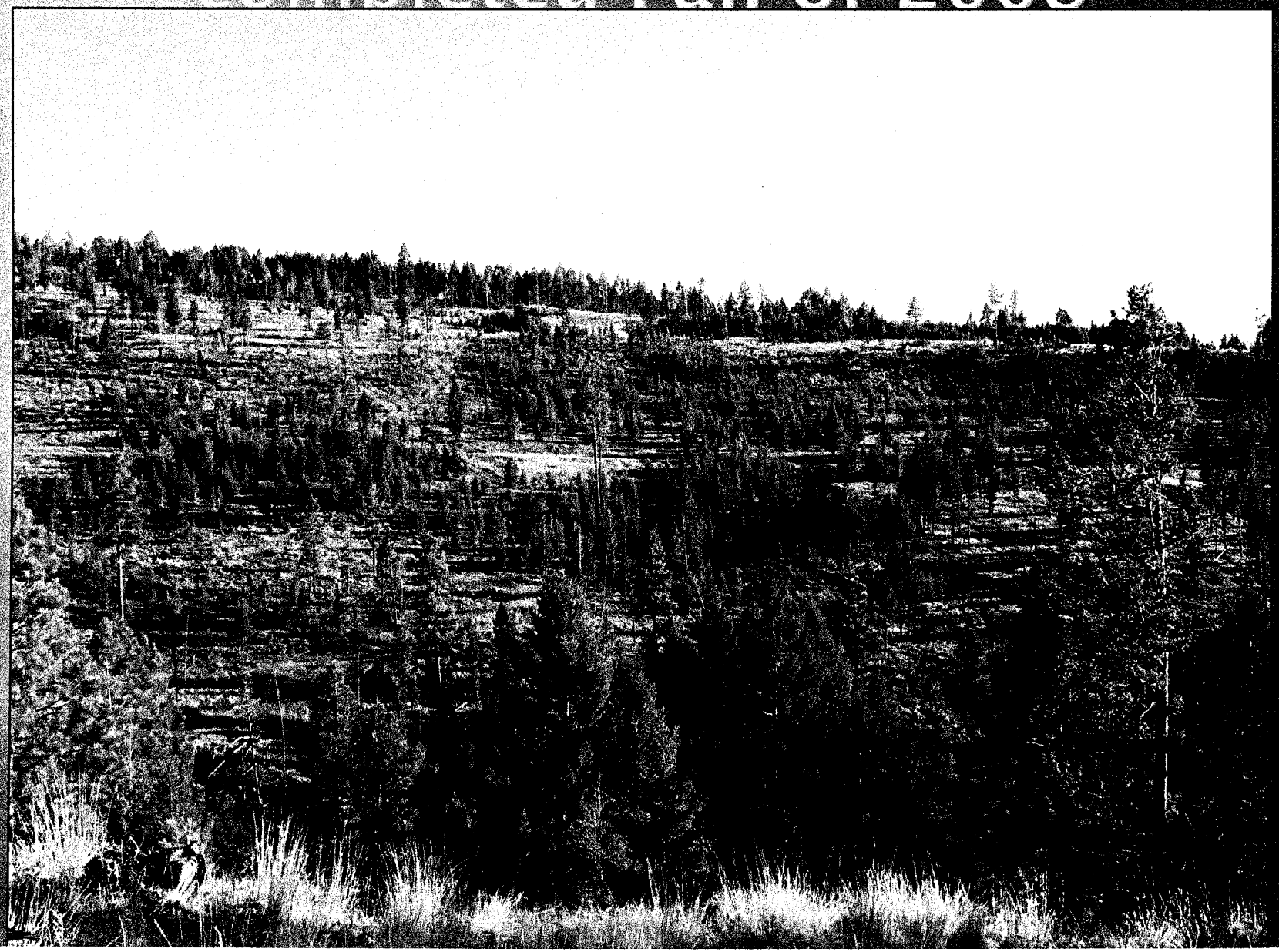


Completed Fall 2008

Wildlife habitat shelter are left randomly throughout the units

The old logging roads now blend in to the new surroundings developed by the thinning

Days after thinning was completed Fall of 2008



Completed project